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SUBJECT TRANSFER OF MRS PERON AND OTHER RECENT DISPOSITIONS

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE REPORTS A STRING OF LARGELY UNCONNECTED GOA ACTIONS AFFECTING POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING THE TRANSFER OF MRS PERON TO A MORE COMFORTABLE PLACE OF DETENTION AND THE CONDITIONAL LIBERTY OF MEMBERS OF HER DEPOSED GOVERNMENT, THE RECENT DETENTION OF LABOR LEADERS IN CORDOBA FOR EXCEEDING CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON UNION ACTIVITY AND THE POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF POLITICIANS FOR ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. MRS PERON'S TRANSFER TO HOUSE ARREST AND THE CONDITIONAL LIBERTY GRANTED OTHER PERONIST LEADERS LOOK LIKE AN EFFORT TO MOVE THINGS TOWARD A CONCLUSION ON THAT LEGAL FRONT. THE POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF THE POLITICAL AND LABOR ACTIVISTS SUGGESTS THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET READY FOR A "POLITICAL DIALOGUE." END SUMMARY.

1. BY DECISION OF THE MILITARY JUNTA, EX-PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON WAS TRANSFERRED AUGUST 26 FROM THE NAVAL BASE IN AZUL TO THE PERON COUNTRY ESTATE IN SAN VICENTE SOME 50 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES. MRS PERON REMAINS DETAINED INCOMMUNICADO, EXCEPT FOR ACCESS TO HER LAWYER AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE JUNTA, AND CANNOT LEAVE THE ESTATE. IN EFFECT, SHE CONTINUES UNDER HOUSE ARREST, AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES WHICH ARE BEING BROUGHT AGAINST HER OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

2. THE JUNTA REPORTEDLY HAS GRANTED CONDITIONAL LIBERTY TO A DOZEN OR SO OFFICIALS OF THE DEPOSED PERONIST GOVERNMENT ALSO ENCOMPASSED UNDER THE ACT OF INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING EX-GOVERNOR CARLOS MENEN AND CONSTRUCTION UNION LEADER ROGELIO PAPAGNO. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER CONCERNING THE TERMS OF THEIR DISPOSITIONS WHEN THEY BECOME CLARIFIED. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT EXTRADE UNION BOSS LORENZO MIGUEL WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO HIS RESIDENCE SEPTEMBER 10 TO FINISH OUT THE REST OF A 3-YEAR JUNTA-IMPOSED SENTENCE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

3. FOUR OF FIVE ORTHODOX PERONIST UNION LEADERS IN CORDOBA JAILED LAST WEEK WERE RELEASED AUGUST 28, ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES. REPORTEDLY THE REASON FOR THEIR ARREST WAS A CABLE THEY SENT TO THE LABOR MINISTRY IN THE NAME OF ALL THE WORKERS IN CORDOBA COMPLAINING ABOUT MANAGERIAL WAGE ABUSES. THE RIGHT TO ISSUE SUCH COLLECTIVE PETITIONS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TOOK POWER TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO. THE FOUR RELEASED LEADERS ARE ALEJO SIMO (METAL WORKERS), ALFREDO REJAS (RESTAURANT WORKERS) RAUL SUAREZ (CARPENTERS) AND JOSE RODRIGUEZ (RADIO TELEGRAPHISTS). THE

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LEADER REMAINING IN JAIL IS SOFT DRINK UNION LEADER ELIO LUMELLO WHOSE ARREST MAY BE RELATED TO ACTIVITIES GOING BACK TO HIS DAYS AS A NATIONAL DEPUTY BEFORE THE GOUP. LUMELLO'S WIFE HAS PRESENTED A HABEAS CORPUS REQUEST.

4. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS JOSE ANTONIO ALLENDE, FRANCISCO CERRO, ENRIQUE DE VEDIA AND MARTIN DIP HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE LAWS SUSPENDING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES -- FOLLOWING A MEETING HELD EARLIER IN THE MONTH WHICH RESULTED IN A DECISION TO MERGE TWO SPLINTER GROUPS INTO ONE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION. THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE A FEDERAL JUDGE WHO MUST DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR ACTION VIOLATES THE LAWS OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

5. A FEDERAL JUDGE HAS ALSO SUMMONED EX-PRESIDENT ARTURO FRONZIZI AND 24 OTHER BIG NAME POLITICIANS TO MAKE A FORMAL STATEMENT CONCERNING A PERONIST-INSPIRED DECLARATION WHICH THE EX-POLITICAL LEADERS SIGNED A WEEK AGO ENTITLED, "TO THE ARMED FORCES GOVERNMENT AND THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE". AMONG THE OTHER POLITICIANS ACCUSED BY THE FEDERAL POLICE WITH VIOLATING THE DECREE LAW (LAW 21,323) SUSPENDING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT VICENTE SOLANO LIMA (POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY), PERONISTS FELIPE BITTEL, ELOI PROSPERO CAMUS, ROBERTO ARES, ANGEL ROLEDO, MANUEL DE ANCHORENA AND DANIEL ADROQUE AND FRONZIZI'S CLOSE ASSOCIATE ROGELIO FRIGERIO -- ALL MEMBERS OF THE FREJULI ALLIANCE THAT TOOK THE PERONISTS TO POWER IN 1973. THE SIGNED POLITICAL STATEMENT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS CALLED FOR "SELF-CRITICISM ON THE PART OF MILITARY MEN AND CIVILIANS", WITH A VIEW TO RECOVERING PEACE AND FULL PERSONAL RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SIGNERS OF THIS DECLARATION ALSO CALLED FOR MRS PERON'S FREEDOM ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT SHOW UP IN THE VERSION WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. ICRP POLITICIANS DID NOT SIGN THE DECLARATION PRESUMABLY FOR THIS REASON.

6. COMMENT: THE JUNTA DECISION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS ENCOMPASSED UNDER THE INSTITUTIONAL ACT -- IN EFFECT AN ACT OF REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE -- ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT A STEP TOWARDS A DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES. THE CORRESPONDING DECREE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED YET, SO WE DO NOT HAVE THE PRECISE TERMS RELATING TO EACH OF THE INDIVIDUALS.

7. THE LATEST POLICE AND JUDICIAL ACTIONS INITIATED AGAINST CONFUSED STATE OF PLAY WITH REGARD TO THE VIDELA-VIOLA CALL FOR A "POLITICAL DIALOGUE." ACCORDING TO VIDELA'S ORIGINAL PLANS, THE "DIALOGUE" WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN IN FULL SWING BEGINNING WITH THE "SECOND STAGE" OF THE NATIONAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS (WHICH BEGAN AUGUST 11). HOWEVER, THE POLICE AND JUDICIAL ACTIONS SUGGEST THAT THERE IS STILL A LACK OF CONSENSUS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES WITH RESPECT TO THIS OBJECTIVE.

CASTRO

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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